Forests

Action taken by Government on the resolution recommending the appointment of a committee to enquire into the forest grievances of ryots.

*1024 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what action Government have taken on the resolution passed in this Council on 6th September 1928 recommending the appointment of a committee to enquire into the grievances of ryots in forest areas; and

(b) whether Government propose to invest forest panchayats with judicial functions in respect of minor forest offences?

A.—(a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 726 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty.

(b) If the hon. Member means to suggest that forest panchayats might be empowered to try minor forest offences as a Court, the proposal would seem open to the objection that it would make the prosecutor the Judge. If the hon. Member means something else, perhaps he would state his suggestion more clearly.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know whether any progress has been made in the consideration of the question, such as the appointment of a committee, etc., since the answer to Mr. Shetty's question has been given?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government has not come to any conclusion."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know whether any of the recommendations that have been made are under consideration?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government have been considering and have not yet come to any conclusion."

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—"Is this a case where Government do not want to appoint a committee?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government have not come to any conclusion; it is not possible to say anything more at present."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"When is the Government likely to come to a conclusion on this point?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"After the budget discussion is over."

Permission to villagers for hunting wild animals in the forests of South Kanara.

*1025 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: With reference to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 368, answered on 8th October 1928, regarding permission to villagers for hunting wild animals in the forests of South Kanara will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what decision the Government have arrived at regarding the permission to be obtained for hunting in the reserves? 11-3 a.m.

A.—The Government have authorized the Collector to delegate his powers of granting permission to the local Revenue Divisional officers.

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Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"May I know whether this permission is restricted only to South Kanara?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"It is restricted to South Kanara."

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—"May I know whether the forest officers in the area concerned cannot be authorized to give permission in this matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Notice, Sir."

Marine

Election of representatives of the Indian Chamber of Commerce for the Tuticorin Port Trust Board.

* 1026 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have called upon the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin, to select only two representatives instead of three for the Port Trust Board and if so, for what reasons?

A.—The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin, has been asked to elect three trustees to the Tuticorin Port Trust Board.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"May I enquire whether in the first instance the Government asked the Chamber of Commerce to elect two members only?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"With reference to the ancient history of the matter I am not in a position to say anything now."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"It is a recent instance. I want to know whether recently the Government did not ask that only two members should be elected?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I want notice, Sir."

Progress of the Tuticorin Harbour Scheme.

* 1027 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the projected Tuticorin Harbour Scheme is;

(b) whether there is any proposal to confine the scheme only to the Hare Island and if so, whether such a proposal has received the approval of Government;

(c) whether any works are being carried out on the Hare Island and if so, what and at what cost per month approximately, and with what dredgers and machinery; and

(d) what the scheme has cost up to date?

A.—(a) The Harbour Engineer-in-Chief is preparing detailed plans and estimates for the construction and maintenance of a complete harbour (a) at Hare Island, and (b) at the site fronting Tuticorin.

(b) No.

(c) All capital works at Hare Island were stopped in November 1927.

(d) The expenditure on capital works at Tuticorin up to end of 1927–28 was Rs. 27,37,411.